

CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Living Christ's ways and exploding with love and service"

Sunday Worship Schedule

Praise Celebration 9 am FaithXpress 10 am

Traditional Style Celebration 11 am

TOTAL STEWARDSHIP: PRAYERS, PRESENCE, GIFTS, AND SERVICE



Interim Pastor

Rev. James M. Pollard

Minister for Christian Education & Community Life

Sally J. Pollard

Office Manager/Ministry Assistant

Janelle Martin

Minister of Music

Paul Staley

Financial Secretary

Doris Schanzlin

Custodian

David Wolf



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CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 9-5
Tuesday and Thursday, 9-noon



February 2017



With Joy... From Sally

When we celebrate Christmas, the coming of Jesus—God’s Son, we’re not just saying something about Jesus. We’re also making claims about God. People say, “Like Father, like son.” For some in Jesus’ time this was scandalous and almost sacri-

lege! When we say Jesus, God’s son, is going about the family business, we’re not simply saying that Jesus is like God, but that God is like Jesus. The things that Jesus did—eating randomly with religious leaders AND with sinners, associating with loose women and welcoming them into his inner circle, refusing to defend his own honor or his family’s by striking back, even when it meant his own death—these were God’s business on earth. God’s purpose on earth looks like Jesus’ behavior. Those who thought Jesus’ behavior was shameful were also shaming God. For those who gladly receive God’s love and acceptance into their lives, healing the places that are broken and hurting, and who respond to that love in their lives by sharing it with others, are saying that Jesus is God’s Son, the best news ever! God’s kingdom...community...rule (or whatever words work for you) is not about judging sinners, but about God’s complete presence and involvement in the challenges and troubles of everyday human life. It’s not about distant holiness, but being with people in the midst of messy life—even when it seems outrageous and hopeless. If God wouldn’t have anything to do with it, what hope would we have?

Jesus’ baptism was no diluted rite of passage, but a full immersion into the life of God’s people—Jesus is one of us and with us in all things!

What difference will this make in our lives, the way we live each day and the way we will be a church community bearing his name? Like Jesus, each of us is someone—we are meant to be children of God. NOTHING is able to separate us from God’s love as we see in the life of Jesus. We may try to create groups of people that are “in” and groups that are “out,” but no matter what the world says, no matter what the church says, you are a child of God, and so am I—worthwhile and valued. We have an identity, a purpose, and we’re full of potential! In the days and years we have before us, how will we expand the boundaries of love-- in families...in the church...in the community around us—so that everyone will know that they are a child of God?

Sally

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARY

Peter & Mary Jane Shanley (53 Years!)February 2, 1963



A PERSONAL WORD FROM JIM POLLARD

Next Steps Toward the Future...

Thus far in our planning process, four goals have been defined:

- **Grow in numbers – to look more like the community (demographically)**
- **Offer opportunities: more voice in social justice issues – internal and external**
- **Make multifaceted connections between denominations and religions for spiritual growth and know our community.**
- **Become a community center for faith and service – making connections with our tenants.**

In early January, the Planning Team began brainstorming ideas for strategies that will enable accomplishment of the goals.

Next, everybody is invited to offer ideas.

On Sunday, February 5th, following the 9 am service, and following the 11 am service, a table for each goal will be set up in Crafts Hall. You are invited to go to the table for the goal(s) that interest you and offer your own ideas for strategies and steps the church could take to accomplish the goals. At each table, two members of the Planning Team will serve as a facilitator and a recorder.

Start your idea lists now. Read the goals stated above. Pray about them. What ideas occur to you as to how the church could accomplish those goals? This is “brainstorming.” Don’t limit your thinking. Your ideas may seem “crazy.” Write them down; bring your ideas on February 5 and offer them!! Bring your enthusiasm, your imagination, your “What if we ___?” ideas. Make it fun! Brainstorming is not a debate; it is a process to free up our thinking and dreaming. In theological language, it is opening ourselves to the Spirit of God to inspire us!

The ideas will be compiled, and the Planning Team will continue to discern a potential strategic plan for the future life and ministry of the church. At a date still to be determined, drawing on our praying, thinking, ideas, dreaming, and planning, our consultant will return and lead us in a day-long retreat which will define a plan that will be reported to the church and then proposed to the Church Council for adoption.

In Christ’s service,

Jim

OUTREACH MISSIONS OF THE MONTH - FEBRUARY 2017

Missions of the Month - Food Ministries

Hunger has many faces.....

Hunger is a child waiting with her mother at a food pantry for a bag of food because her mother's paycheck doesn't stretch far enough to put food on the table.



Hunger is a family of four struggling to live on two low paying jobs that offer no health insurance.

Hunger is the face of a senior citizen whose fixed income is barely above the federal poverty level and yet does not qualify for food stamps.

There are several ways our church seeks to help fight hunger. We have the Shopping Cart Ministry where we collect food items weekly. There is a list of suggested items to be donated posted on the shopping cart. All food donations (whether they are on the list or not) are greatly appreciated. They are then available for whoever stops by the church in need, and some of the donations are also taken to local food pantries such as Primera Iglesia and University Presbyterian.

We also make casseroles several times a year and then give them to Central City Café. The recipes are easy to make, nutritious, and feed 15 people each. Our goal is to send 14 casseroles each time, thus providing 210 meals.



Lastly, we are committed to helping prepare a meal at Central City Café two Tuesdays each month. The shifts are 2-4 hours and include preparing and serving the meal, and then cleaning up. For more information regarding these ministries, please see a member of the Outreach Team.



FAITH + PRESS

Pre-K–Grade 5 † Sunday mornings † 10 am † Lower level

February - March

Peacemakers Bible stories of people who tried to bring peace and justice to all of God's people will inspire us and help us learn how to be peacemakers today.

February 5 – Story of Jacob & Esau – Two brothers who needed help in getting along. Creating a peace pole.

February 12 – Practicing problem solving skills & creating pathways of peace.

We hope everyone will visit our peace pole and join us in creating pathways of peace.

February 19 – Harmony & discord & peace in many languages.

February 26 – Telling peacemaking stories with puppets

March 1 – More fun with stories and games

March 12 – Peace Olympics

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- Barbara Burr03
- Marion Rowlands03
- Kelsey Reed.....04
- Emily Mugel07
- Kristin Scaringi.....07
- Dorothy Brown is **102**08
- Jayne Kremzier11
- Beth Sweet12
- Diane Lovejoy13
- Peter Shanley14
- Olivia Smith.....*.....14
- Donna Yungbluth15
- Marilyn Welker17
- Ben Bermudez20
- Abigail Johnson23
- Viki Smith25
- Linda Parete26
- Janice Beckwith.....27
- Michele Sciolino27
- Ashton Hannon28



Pam Lopez Photo



Pam Lopez Photo



TRAVEL WITH BISHOP WEBB TO THE HOLY LAND

Upper NY Area Bishop Mark Webb and District Superintendent Wayne Butler invite you to travel with them to the Holy Land, January 9-19, 2018!!

The tour will acquaint you with sites important in the history and life of Israel and the life and ministry of Jesus. You will travel to Jericho and Qumran, Mt. Carmel and Megiddo, Nazareth, Capernaum, and Cana in Galilee, the Sea of Galilee, through Samaria, to Bethlehem and Jerusalem – tracing the “Way of the Cross” through the Old City, praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, the Garden Tomb, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, and additional significant sites.

The price, including international air fare (round trip from Buffalo or Rochester) starts at \$3196 per person. Early registration discounts are offered. A copy of the tour brochure with detailed additional information is posted on the Café bulletin board.



MARCH CALLER DEADLINE: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13
QUESTIONS? CONTACT BARBARA MITCHELL @ 839-2435 OR BBMITCH@VERIZON.NET



STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

Thank you to all who have turned in their 2017 pledges. Many have stepped up and increased their 2017 commitment!

We have 92 pledges for 2017 totaling \$213,875.50, a \$7,855.50 increase over \$206,020 from 97 pledges in 2016.

In 2016 23 pledges were underpaid by \$8,495, but 27 pledges were overpaid by \$5,666, so our net loss from pledges was -\$2,829.

We were able to pay \$33,736 - 89% - of our Shared Ministries.

We also received 50% of the Red Blazer Men's Chorus (Amherst Male Glee Club) Concert, \$354.00.

Thanks also for your generous Christmas Offerings totaling \$1,954.

We'd also like to remind you that there are 53 Sundays in 2017.

Doris Schanzlin,
Financial Secretary



CIRCLE NEWS

Elizabeth Circle will be going to the Lancaster Opera House to see *Dial M for Murder* on Feb. 2. at 7:30 pm.

Rachel Circle will meet Tuesday, Feb. 21 in the Wesley Room at Noon.

Circle of Joy will meet Thursday, February 2, 7:00 at Lisa Lawson's home for game night. We'll also hold a retreat in Zoar Valley from Friday, Feb. 17, to Sunday Feb. 19, postponed from January.

UNITED METHODIST MEN



The CUMC men's group would like to invite both singles and couples to join us in "A Valentine Romance" at the BPO February 11th at 8 pm. We have 10 no charge tickets with the option to order more in the same general location at \$40 per seat. We propose taking reservations and splitting the cost of tickets so everyone pays the same. Please give reservations to Tom Nye at 213-3642 by Sunday, Feb.5th to allow time for ordering extra tickets.

The program features Lisa Vroman singing great love songs from Broadway and the American songbook, with music from Porter, Sondheim, Gershwin, Kander & Ebb, Styne, Lerner & Loewe, Rodgers & Hammerstein, and also from *West Side Story*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *Carousel*. The annual sweetheart dance follows the concert so bring your dancing shoes, sit it out, or take the early car home.

We'll carpool from church starting at 6:15 pm in order to arrive at Kleinhans by 7 pm and park (\$7per car) in the lot. (Come join us and don't forget your sweetie!!)



| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|--|---|--|--|---|--|
| <h1>FEBRUARY 2017</h1> | | | 1 Choir 7:30p | 2 Praise Team 6:30p Circle of Joy 7p | 3 Books We Have Loved 11a | 4 UMW District Executive Board 1PM |
| 5 <i>Praise Worship 9a</i> <i>Education Hour 10a</i> <i>Traditional Worship 11a</i> Planning Team Goal Setting 10a & Noon | 6 Library Team 10:30a | 7 Hospitality Team 7p | 8 Choir 7:30p | 9 Praise Team 6:30p Planning Team 7p | 10 | 11 UM MEN Valentine Romance @ the BPO 6:15p Details? Call Tom Nye at 213-3642 |
| 12 <i>Praise Worship 9a</i> <i>Education Hour 10a</i> <i>Traditional Worship 11a</i> Christian Ed. Team 12:15p | 13 MARCH CALLER DEADLINE | 14  | 15 Choir 7:30p | 16 Praise Team 6:30p SPR Team 7:30p | 17 CIRCLE OF JOY RETREAT | 18 |
| 19 <i>Praise Worship 9a</i> <i>Education Hour 10a</i> <i>Traditional Worship 11a</i> C O J RETREAT | 20 Presidents Day  OFFICE CLOSED | 21 Rachel Circle 12N Trustees 7:30p | 22 Worship Team 7p Choir 7:30p | 23 Praise Team 6:30p | 24  GAME NIGHT 7p | 25 |
| 26 <i>Praise Worship 9a</i> <i>Education Hour 10a</i> <i>Traditional Worship 11a</i> | 27 | 28 |  | | | |